

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1864.

THE MEETING OF THE WATERS.

BY ELIZABETH H. WHITTIER.

CLOSE beside the meeting waters
Long I stood as in a dream,
Watching how the little river
Felt into the broader stream.

Calm and still the mingled current
Went on, without a murmur;—
On its broad bosom, slow,
Pleasant chime and stirring tree.

And I thought, "Oh, human spirit!
Strong, and deep, and pure, and blest,
Let the stream of my existence
Blend with thine, and find its rest!"

I could die as dies the river;
That current deep and wide;
Would live as live its waters,
Flashing from a stronger tide!

THE LEE FAMILY—AN ERROR SET RIGHT.

It will be remembered that, some months ago, a letter, purporting to be written in 1790, by "Richard Henry Lee, grandfather of General Robert E. Lee," went the rounds of the press. The letter, as published, seemed to treat the Constitution as a temporary arrangement, which was to be set aside at an early day; and the inference was drawn from it that the Lee family was never friendly to the Union. But this is far from being the fact. The Lees were Federalists almost without exception, or, in other words, they belonged to the party of Washington and Hamilton, which favored the adoption of the Constitution in the first instance, and which was prone to construe it liberally.

In the second place, the Rebel commander-in-chief is not the grandson of Richard Henry Lee, but of Henry Lee, of Leesylvania, who will be seen by the following statement, which proves from a reliable source that he was a son of General Lee, and nearly connected with the Lee family. The father of Robert E. Lee was General Henry Lee, who, if we remember correctly, was the author of the resolution of Congress on the death of General Washington, in these memorable words, "First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

The author of the letter which has been referred to was Richard Lee, the son of one of the Rebel leaders, and a member of the Confederacy; the letter itself has, in all probability, been misprinted, as has been shown by our correspondent.

Extracts from this letter, thus enveloped in error, have found their way into recent works of history, notably, Mr. McPherson's "American History of the Rebellion," and it is, therefore, all the more proper that the errors should be corrected, in just to General Lee's patriotic conduct, and to his loyal kinship, if not to himself.

To the Editor of the *Chronicle*:—
Mr. McPherson, in his Political History of the Rebellion, page 359, says:—

"Richard Henry Lee, grandfather of General Robert E. Lee, writing in 1790 on the *National Constitution*, is reported to have said, 'When we (the South) attain our natural degree of population, I fear myself that we shall have the power of dissolving the Union, with dissolving the bond which unites us together.'

The "grandfather" of General Robert E. Lee was not Richard Henry Lee, but Henry Lee, of Leesylvania, Prince William County, Virginia, who was the father of General Henry Lee, the "Light Horse Harry" of the Revolution.

The authority for the statement cited by Mr. McPherson is probably a letter attributed to Richard Lee, the son of General Lee, which can be found in some country library in Virginia, taken possession of by the United States troops at an early period of the Rebellion. The letter was printed in one or more newspapers, and was the subject of much discussion in Virginia in several of the early Congresses; afterward, Commissioner for adjudicating claims for property lost, etc., during the war of 1812, and general agent of the Orphans' Court for Washington county, D. C.

Those who knew him will be surprised to hear that at any period of his life he looked favorably to dissolution! May not the word "with" in the sentence mean "without"? The sentence would read, "When we (the South) attain our natural degree of population, and of course of votes in Congress, would remove any grievance felt or apprehended without dissolving the Union—that is, without separating from it."

If access can be had to the original letter, an examination of it would show whether the word as written is "with" or "without," and if "with," whether, according to the context, this must be a logical interpretation.

Mr. McPherson would thus be enabled to correct the error, if any exist, in the next edition of his valuable and interesting work.

It may be added that Mr. Richard Lee was noted in his day as an accurate and elegant writer; and it is natural to refer to "the natural degree of population" of the South as the means or instrument to be used for dissolving the Union, he would have said "by dissolving, and not "with dissolving," &c.—Washington *Chronicle*.

THE DEATH OF CAPTAIN SPEKE.
The English mail received by the *Aero* bring full particulars of the death of Captain Speke, the African explorer. He was suddenly killed on the 15th of September, by the accidental discharge of his own gun, while shooting in the neighborhood of Corsham, Wilts. The charge passed through his chest close to his heart, and he died in ten minutes. His age was thirty-eight years. The remains were conveyed to his father's home at Limassol.

THE ADVOCATE—
An editorial—
"For the Advocate" to the *Advocate*—on the death of Captain Speke, the African explorer. He was suddenly killed on the 15th of September, by the accidental discharge of his own gun, while shooting in the neighborhood of Corsham, Wilts. The charge passed through his chest close to his heart, and he died in ten minutes. His age was thirty-eight years. The remains were conveyed to his father's home at Limassol.

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